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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

November 4, 1919.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of November 2 contains the following extract relative to extra staple cotton:

* * *

There has been a perfect orgy of Egyptian business. Both Sakellaridis and Egyptian uppers were offered at price levels so much below American cotton that many mills bought very heavily to cover cloth orders. Egyptian prices have been rising steadily and toward the close of the week word came of the closing of the Alexandria exchange and of a series of strikes, shipping tie-ups and even open rioting. It was impossible at the close of the week to get any further orders confirmed from Alexandria, and a rumor which gained considerable credence was to the effect that the unsettled condition would be used as the excuse for cancelling or indefinitely postponing many of the orders for Egyptians already taken. * * *

In a few quarters Egyptians either on the spot in this country or in Liverpool or on the way overseas were offered, high grade sak being quoted at prices varying from 65 to 75 cents, with medium grades ranging from 63 to 68 and low grades from 58 to 62. Medium grade Uppers were priced at 61 to 64 cents, while Peruvians, which were available only in very limited quantities, ranged from 64 to 68 cents depending upon whether the cotton was medium or high grade. All these prices, of course, are on a c. i. f. net weight basis. * * *

A very active demand for Sea Island has sprung up owing to the fact that Sea Island prices are relatively very low when compared to Peeler prices. Large purchases have been made during the past two or three weeks, the entire government surplus stock having been resold and as much of the new crop Sea Island as can be offered here.

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Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, October 31, 1919 36.25
..... to
37.38

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

November 11, 1919.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of November 9 contains the following extract relative to extra staple cotton:

The first serious quotations of a dollar a pound for long staple American cotton of good grade were received in this market this week. They applied, of course, to very long staple white cotton of specially selected high grade and, needless to say, there was no actual dealing on anything like this basis of price.

* * *

Fortunately for the mills, the difficulties of the Egyptian market are gradually being straightened out and the re-opening of the Alexandria Exchange at a considerably lower level gave assurance that the heavy orders for Egyptians placed by consumers in this vicinity would be filled without difficulty. High grade Sak was obtainable this week at 75 cents c.i.f. for early shipment from Alexandria, while low grade Sak sold here as low as 69 cents. Mill men have declared that before they will pay over 80 cents a pound for American extra staple cotton, they will use Egyptians and demand as well as actual sales of this kind of cotton during the week have given force to this declaration.

* * *

Large sales of Peruvian cotton in this market during the week are another indication of the determination of the manufacturers to use new varieties of cotton rather than to submit to inordinately high prices for the usual American varieties. Medium grade mitafiffi was obtainable here for 68 cents, while white Peruvian, otherwise known as Tangris cotton, was offered here at 75 to 82 cents. This cotton is beautiful in appearance and is practically all strict good middling or good middling in grade with a staple running an inch and three-sixteenths or better.

Pimas running No. 2 to No. 3 in grade and inch and five-eighths in staple could be had at 80 to 83 cents c.i.f. and were sold at the former figure, while Sea Islands, average extra choice in grade, were sold here for 75 cents and were quoted as high as 81 and 82 cents.

* * *

Extract from New Bedford Sunday Standard continued:

Price quotations on a basis of white cotton, middling in grade, and classed according to a standard of stapling slightly lower than that maintained heretofore in these columns are as follows:

Inch and an eighth, 65 to 70 cents.

Inch and three sixteenths, 72-1/2 to 75 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 78 to 84 cents.

Inch and five sixteenths, 82 to 86 cents.

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of November 9 contains the following extract under the heading "Basis Changed on Quotations":

In response to many and repeated suggestions from a number of different sources, the Standard hereby announces a change in the basis on which prices of extra staples will hereafter be quoted. The type of cotton formerly spoken of as "full inch and an eighth," or as "New Bedford Sunday Standard eighths," will hereafter be referred to as "inch and three sixteenths." That formerly quoted as "full inch and three sixteenths" will be known hereafter in these columns as "inch and a quarter." That spoken of formerly as "full inch and a quarter" will be referred to hereafter as "inch and five sixteenths." A type somewhat longer than commercial inch and an eighth will be quoted hereafter as "inch and an eighth."

Furthermore, because of the rapidly growing scarcity of strict middling cotton in extra staple lengths, the quotations in the New Bedford Standard hereafter will be given on the basis of middling rather than of strict middling as heretofore.

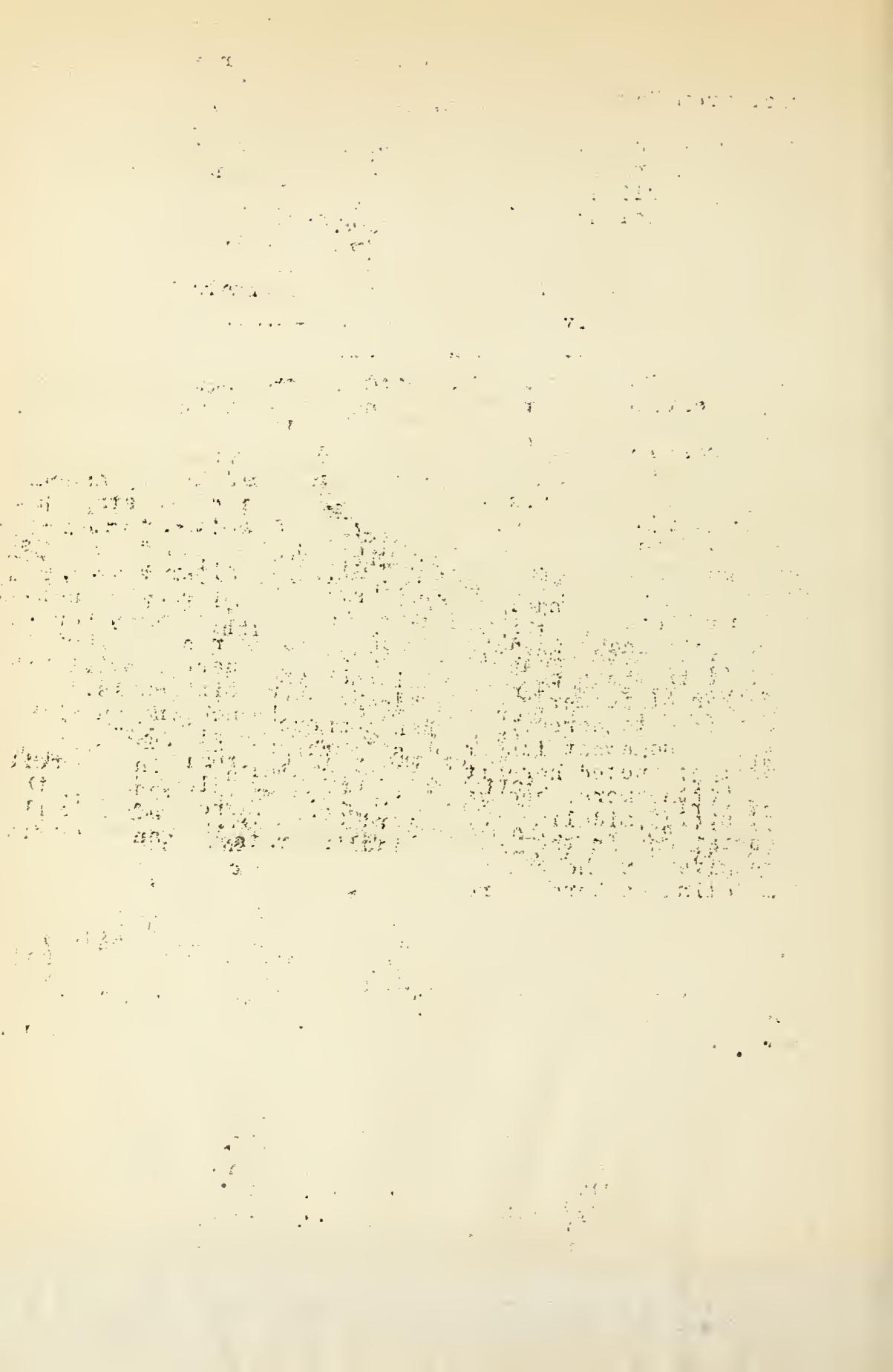
* * *

Liverpool Daily Cotton Reports

The Liverpool quotations for Bahellaridis Egyptian cotton (October 21, 1919) are as follows (pence):

	Spot Trading Value
Good	55.00
Fine	57.50
Extra fine	59.50

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, November 7, 1919 ... 37.25
to
39.00



Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

November 18, 1919.

EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of November 16 contains the following extract relative to extra staple cotton:

The market for extra staple cotton during the past week has been very unsatisfactory from every standpoint. There was no definite price level. Each sale practically stood by itself, and brokers were frankly confessing that they did not know what any given type of cotton was worth either from the seller's or the buyer's standpoint, until they actually had tried out the market on a definite lot of cotton. There were daily changes in prices, sometimes one way, sometimes another, but in the majority of cases the tendency was upward. * *

* * *

The bulk of the business done was on inch-and-three-sixteenths and under, many of the mills apparently having lost interest in the longer cotton. * *

* * *

* * Strict low middling inch-and-three-sixteenths could be bought as low as 74 cents for white cotton, or 62-1/2 cents if a limited amount of grey tinge was allowed. Sales of this same length in strict middling, however, were made here this week as high as 88 cents. * *

* * *

There is a very active interest in the various special and foreign varieties. Egyptians are still very much in favor in spite of a slight increase in price. Medium grade Sakellaridis is still available at 75 to 78 cents, with medium to high grade offered at 80 to 84 cents. The medium grades are said to be getting scarcer, but there is still a fairly good supply of the higher grades. Medium to high grade uppers can be bought at 72 to 74 cents in some quarters, but as a rule Alexandria shippers refuse to quote on them, although they will take open orders and attempt to purchase the cotton from the interior.

* * *

Sea Island of the new crop is offered by some brokers, but the majority of this cotton is said to have been so badly damaged by the boll weevil that the character is very poor. Average extra choice is quoted at 84 to 86 cents with choice available at 82. Some sales are reported, but the majority of the brokers have abandoned this field.

Pima out of the new crop is quoted at 82 to 83 cents for No. 3 grade inch-and-five-eighths staple, with higher grades available at 85 to 86. For tire yarn work there is still some demand for this kind of cotton, but for the regular run of cotton cloth manufacturing, most of the local mill men regard it as too long for them to use conveniently. Another obstacle that is being encountered in the sale of this kind of cotton here is the accusation that many of the lots purchased out of last season's crop were so irregular in staple and character as to make them very difficult to work successfully. Some of the mill men claim to have learned this by actual experience and they are very wary of buying more of the same kind of cotton. The root of the trouble, it is believed, lies in the careless classing which featured some of the shipments last season.

Price quotations are given this week more for the purpose of showing the wide variation than in an effort to indicate the market level. Based on middling white cotton and on the new staple basis, they are:

Inch-and-an-eighth, 66(?) to 73 cents.

Inch-and-three-sixteenths, 75 to 85 cents.

Inch-and-a-quarter, 80 to 90 cents.

Inch-and-five-sixteenths, 90 to 95 cents.

"Cotton," the official journal of the Manchester Cotton Association Limited, Manchester, England, under date of Oct. 11, 1919, contains the following extract relative to Egyptian cotton:

The Alexandria Cotton Company, Ltd.-- Alexandria, 19th Sept. New Crop. - Climatic conditions have lately been favourable and the opening of the bolls is satisfactory. In the southern regions the first picking is well advanced and gives good results; had it not been for the deficient growth of the plant early in the season we could get a record yield. The proportion of good qualities will be greater than in previous year; the staple does not, however, promise well, owing to the fact that the bolls are smaller and less vigorous, also because the plantations suffered greatly from long rotations and scarcity of water in July; the habit of some cultivators of not watering their cotton plantations from the end of July to the beginning of September to force on the opening of the bolls has a bad effect on the staple, and we believe this has been done considerably this year.

In the northern regions the opening is good, and the picking has just started but will not be general for some ten days.

The pink bollworm attack continues to be lighter than in previous years.

Extract from "Cotton" continued:

Later, dated Alexandria, 24th September:-
New Crop. - Reports are of a less satisfactory character.
Our agricultural expert is now making a second extensive
tour by motor car, and his first reports show that while
the opening of the bolls is good, late bolls are badly
attacked in some provinces by the pink boilworm. The
first picking is well advanced with satisfactory results,
but not much hope must be placed in the second picking,
as a large proportion of the bolls are damaged, in some
cases entirely destroyed.

The New York Journal of Commerce of November 14 contains
the following item relative to Egyptian cotton:

Alexandria cablegram says 1919-20 Egyptian cotton crop
is estimated at 6,000,000 cantars of 99 pounds each.
(Equivalent to 1,188,000 bales of 500 pounds)

Egyptian Cotton Imports

The Bureau of the Census reports imports from Egypt
in equivalent 500-lb. bales during the 3 months ending
October 31, 1919, together with the corresponding period
(as well as for the month of October) of the preceding
year as follows:

October	:	3 mos. ending Oct. 31
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1919	1918	:	1919	:	1918
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10,578	None	:	67,559	:	6,312
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Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah
Market for the week ending Friday, November 14, 1919 ... 38.00
to
39.44

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Alkali and Drought
Resistant Plant
Investigations

November 25, 1919.



EGYPTIAN COTTON NEWS LETTER

The New Bedford Sunday Standard of November 23 contains the following extract relative to extra staple cotton:

As predicted in these columns a week or more ago, the inordinately high prices demanded for extra staple cotton has practically killed the dealing in this market for the present. * *

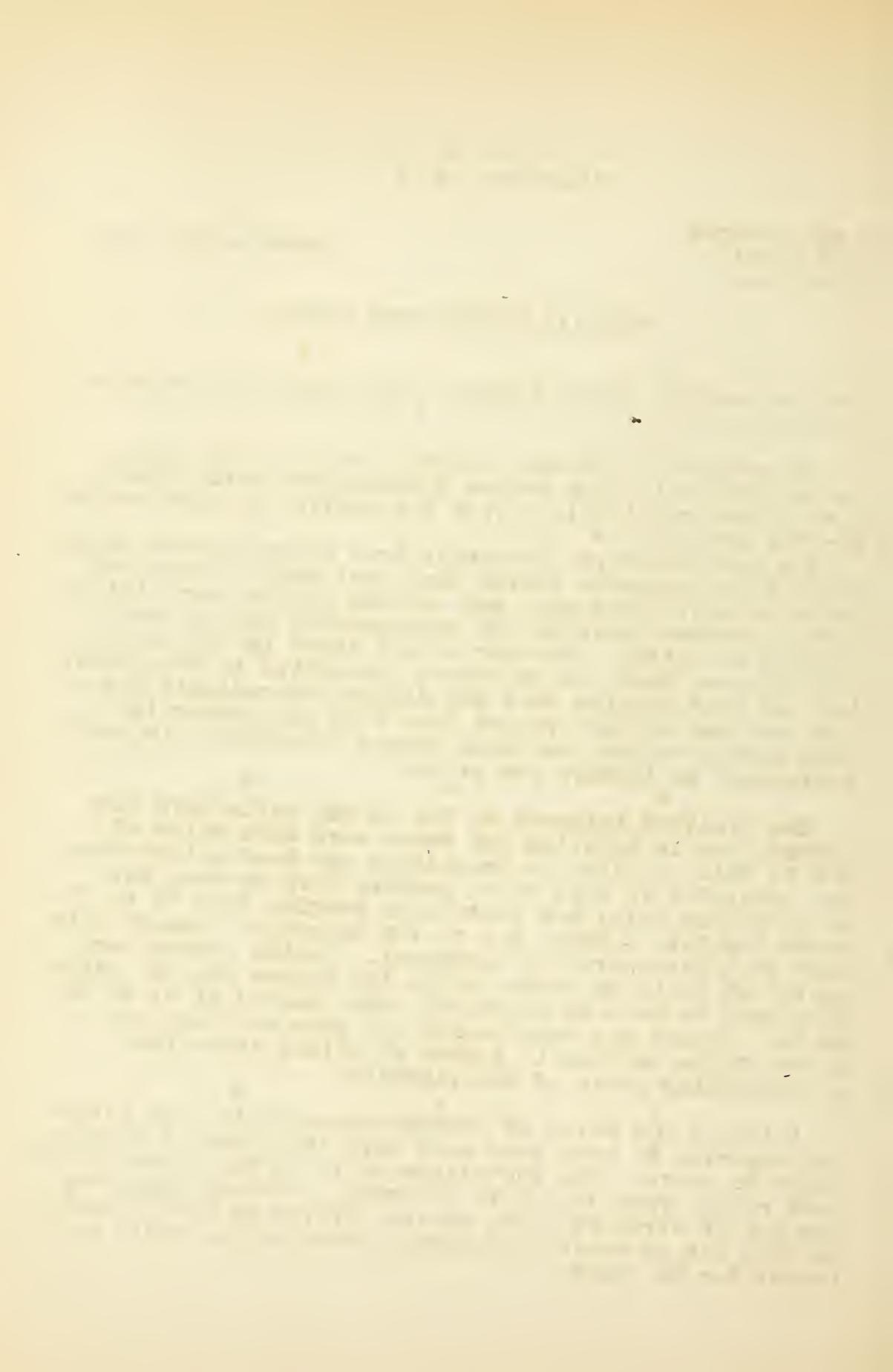
The manufacturers apparently have determined to adopt exactly the opposite course from what they started out to do several weeks ago, and are now taking very little further future business and consequently buying practically no cotton. Whether or not there is any collusion between them, is of course impossible to determine, but the fact remains that the demand has suddenly disappeared and brokers report that mill men during the past week have not even been enough interested, in most instances, to inquire for prices.

* * *

The greatest interest so far as the mills were concerned, was in Egyptian and there were some sales of Sak in this and also in Providence and Boston territory. Low grade Sak is said to be getting very scarce, but some brokers still had quotations ranging from 75 to 77 cents for this cotton, c.i.f. for December, January shipment from Alexandria or Liverpool. Medium grades were quoted at 78 to 80 cents, while the higher grades, which were said to be more plentiful, were quoted at 81 to 85 cents. Uppers are very nearly all gone and were reported to be selling in Boston at prices above the corresponding grade of Sakellaridis.

* * *

A lot of 500 bales of average extra choice Sea Island was reported to have been sold here this week at a price under 80 cents. The quotations on it at the close of the week ranged from 79-1/2 to 85 cents, although there was one lot of straight extra choice offered at 80-1/2 cents. Another lot of choice to average extra choice could be bought for 82 cents.



Cotton News Letter of Nov. 25/19 (p. 2)

Extract from New Bedford Sunday Standard continued:

Pima cotton was offered by a few brokers, but in most instances the price was far higher than the mills were willing to consider. Ninety to ninety-five cents was asked for No. 1 and No. 2 grades, inch and five-eighths or better in staple, but the best the mills are willing to pay is 80 to 82, although they will take slightly lower grades at this price and might also accept slightly shorter staple. The fact that this cotton is reported to be selling in Arizona at 86 cents or thereabouts makes it unlikely that it can be offered in this market at prices that would seem attractive to the local mills.

Prices of extra staples, middling in grade, white in color and classed as to staple on a high standard of stapling, are as follows:

Inch and an eighth, 60 to 71 cents.

Inch and three-sixteenths, 75 to 83 cents.

Inch and a quarter, 85 to 87 cents.

Inch and five-sixteenths, 89 to 95 cents.

Cotton Acreage in Egypt

The Alexandria Cotton Company Limited, as quoted in "Cotton" of October 4, 1919, gives the following data:

	<u>1919</u>	<u>1918</u>	<u>1917</u>
Total	1,573,662	1,315,572	1,677,308
Sakel	1,146,443	952,480	1,133,180

The acreage in Sakellaridis was therefore 73 per cent of the total in 1919, as compared with 72 per cent in 1918 and 67 per cent in 1917. This accounts for nearly the entire cotton acreage in the delta region, most of the balance being situated in Upper Egypt (south of Cairo) where the Ashmuni variety constitutes almost the entire crop.

Quotations for Middling Upland cotton on the Savannah Market for the week ending Friday, November 21, 1919 ...

37.00
to
38.00

